
Poland, Our New NATO Ally, Welcomes DISAM Mobile Education Team

Major Joanne Hawkins, Michael Layton, and Craig Brandt constituted the Mobile Education Team (MET) to Warsaw, Poland during the period 19-30 April 1999. The team taught the SAM-F Foreign Purchaser Course followed by a SAM-P Security Assistance Planning and Resource Management Course for senior officers. The timing of the classes was fortuitous. Just a month earlier, Poland, along with the Czech Republic and Hungary, has joined the North Atlantic Treaty



Colonel Ryszard Jakubczak, Director of the Secretariat of the Secretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Defense (right), presided over the graduation of the SAM-P course. His aide, Lieutenant Piotr Blazeuz (left), is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, class of 1996.

Organization (NATO), signaling a new era in relationships with the U.S. and the Western European allies. In addition, during the course was celebrated the 50th anniversary of NATO, with gala events being staged in Washington. The Ministry of Defense's Department of Arms and Military Equipment Supplies sponsored the class, and the course was conducted in its headquarters.

Colonel Zygmunt Szlaga, the Deputy Director of the Department of Arms and Military Equipment Supplies, opened the SAM-F class on 19 April. Students represented a variety of offices, including the service headquarters, cataloging and standardization, topography, communications and information systems, ASOC, medicine and special operations. The focus of this course was establishing a security assistance relationship with the U.S. Basic processes were stressed as well as the types of decisions that were going to have to be made for successful conduct of a security assistance program. Colonel Szlaga again presided over the closing ceremonies where twenty-four students were awarded diplomas. LTC Peter Podbielski, USA, chief

of the Office of Defense Cooperation in the American Embassy, also spoke.

Fifteen senior officers attended the P class. With the country's entry into NATO, much of the strategic planning of the Polish military is devoted to integration of its forces and procedures into the alliance. The thrust of the P Course was to demonstrate how U.S. security assistance could fit into the overall planning for military resources. Management of the various processes associated with the conduct of a military support structure was emphasized, and the need for educated

professionals to carry out the new tasks was highlighted. Graduation ceremonies were conducted by Colonel Ryszard Jakubczak, Director of the Secretariat of the Secretary of State and First Deputy Minister of Defense. LTC Podbielski also participated in this graduation.

As Poland assumes its new responsibilities within the Atlantic Alliance, its military must make myriad decisions in order to portray its new role. Among these will be the equipping of its forces with interoperable weapon systems and technology, and security assistance promises to be a viable option in this regard. The invitation to DISAM to present the basics of security cooperation is a first step for Poland in addressing the plans for their military of the 21st century.



Dr. Craig Brandt, DISAM team chief, presents a memento of appreciation to LCDR Jacek Herc of the Ministry of Defense's Department of Arms and Military Equipment Supplies. Commander Herc was the gracious host of the team during its stay in Warsaw.